(e) whether there is any understanding between his Ministry and SCICI in this regard; and

(f) whether it is a fact that SCICI has suggested to his Ministry to abandon the deep-sea fishing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, there is a separate section in the Ministry to deal with matters relating to SCICI as the agency for financing & rehabilitating the deep sea fishing units.

(d) As soon as a representation is received from an entrepreneur about problems being faced by a unit, decision regarding the same is taken expeditiously in the Ministry and in consultation with SCICI/Ministry of Finance, wherever necesary.

(e) Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Limited has been functioning as the agency of the Government of India for financing & rehabilitating the deep sea fishing units assisted by the erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee.

(f) No, Sir.

Discard of Shrimp by-catch by East Coast Trawlers

1740. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a FAO study has estimated that the shrimp by-catch discarded by East Coast Trawlers into the Bay of Bengal every year totals nearly 1,20;000 tons;

(b) whether Government have made any plans to utilise this by-catch;

(c) whether there is any proposal to transport such by-catch to urban centres in inland areas; and

(d) whether purchase of this by-catch to asisst the sick units is being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Utilisation of by-catch from shrimp trawlers requires study on commercial viability of undertaking such a project. At present their are no plans to take up a project in order to utilise and transport such by-catch to urban areas.

(d) Yes, Sir.

National Policy on Food Processing

1741. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the national policy on Food Processing has not yet been finalised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether discussions with all concerned have finished;

(d) by when the policy is likely to be announced; and

(e) what is the likely emphasis of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (e) Action has been initiated for formulating a policy on Food Processing. The policy will address issues relating to accelerated growth and development of Food Processing Industries with a view to augment employment opportunities and incomes, both in rural and urban